THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) A total number of 1079 Quarters of General Pool remained unoccupied in Delhi for more than one year in the last 5 years.

(b) Loss of revenue on account of Licence Fee of unoccupied Government accommodation each year during the last 5 years is as under:—

Year	Loss of revenue on account of Licence Fee of unoccupied Government accommodations (Rupees in lacs)
2001	0.56
2002	1.05
2003	5.16
2004	13.12
2005	23.25

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) These houses have remained vacant for various reasons including but not limited to deduction of Licence Fee and HRA from the employee and his/her spouse.

Authorised agents under Emigration Act, 1983

*383. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of authorized agents under Emigration Act, 1983 in Hyderabad who have been recruiting labourers for foreign countries and how many labourers have been sent by each of them to foreign countries during the last two years;

(b) whether Government are aware that a few agents whose licenses have expired since long have been sending labourers to foreign countries with connivance of Protector of Emigrants, Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the names of such recruiting agents and the number of workers sent by them after the expiy of their licenses; and

(d) what action Government have taken against them and the Protector of Emigrants, Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) There are 19 Recruiting Agents in Hyderabad who have been recruiting labourers for foreign countries. The number of workers sent by each of the 19 Recruiting Agents to foreign countries is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Recruiting Agents	No. of workers sent during	
		2004	2005
1.	Razzak Enterprises, Hyderabad	10751	13971
2.	Tirumala Travels, Hyderabad	9083	10696
3.	Unique Travels, Hyderabad	3401	4305
4.	GG Enterprises/Skyline Tours & Travels, Hyd.	4983	7061
5.	Jetways Travels, Hyderabad	-	17
6.	Arab World Travels, Hyderabad	-	192
7.	Global Travels, Hyderabad	13	34
8.	OM Tours & Travels, Hyderabad	145	12
9.	Dynamic International Services, Hyderabad	-	350
10.	Sony Tours & Travels, Hyderabad	6784	32
11.	Gulf Travels, Hyderabad	-	87
12.	Sharp Human Resources, Secunderabad	-	8
13.	Madhav Travels, Rajahamundry	-	50
14.	Kannan Enterprises, Visakhapatnam	-	68
15.	Sai Travels, Nirmal	58	134
16.	R.K. Resources, Hyderabad	-	32
17.	Simi Enterprises, Visakhapatnam	541	-
18.	Varun International, Visakhapatnam	20	-
19.	South East Asia Trading Corporation, Hyderabad	4	-

(b and (c) One instance of a Recruiting Agent having obtained emigration clearance beyond the validity period of his Registration Certificate has come to notice. M/s Unique Travels, Hyderabad was found to have obtained emigration clearance for 219 persons after the expiry of his Registration Certificate.

(d) A Notice has been served on the Recruiting Agent to show cause as to why their Registration Certificate should not be suspended/cancelled. On receipt of the reply, action will be taken under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Based on the findings of a preliminary enquiry that there is a *prima facie* case of irregularity having been committed, a show cause notice was issued to the two officials involved and not finding their reply to be satisfactory, the matter has been referred to vigilance section for initiating disciplinary proceedings.

Defining Poverty Line

*384. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are serious flaws in the methodology adopted by Government in defining poverty line as it makes very little provision for other essentials of life like drinking water, shelter and sanitation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of decline of poverty since 1973 has been at dismal 0.81 per cent per annum and the number of poor stood at about 25 crore in 2004; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to include parameters like drinking water, shelter etc., in the definition of poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The methodology adopted by the Planning Commission, Government of India, in defining the poverty line is as recommended by the Expert Group on "Estimation of Proportion of Number of Poor" (Lakdawala Committee) and is widely acknowledged to be one of the most sophisticated methodologies. Based on this expert group report, the Planning Commission has adopted a Per Capita Consumption Expenditure needed to attain the minumum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. as the critertion to define the poverty line.

The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the expert